

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2611

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2975

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND MARCOS

REFS: (A) MANILAL2664 (B) STATE 48158

1. I UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO INITIATE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND MARCOS ON THE DELICATE ISSUE OF US-ASEAN RELATIONS. THE FACT REMAINS, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS THE SUBJECT UPPERMOST IN PHILIPPINE ATTENTION AT THIS TIME AND THE ONE WHICH MIGHT HAVE PRODUCED THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE AND THOUGHTFUL REPLY FROM MARCOS.

2. ANY OTHER SUBJECT WITH WHICH THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS TO BE INITIATED WILL BE LESS SUBSTANTIVE AND THEREFORE LESS LIKELY TO PRODUCE A USEFUL REPLY FROM MARCOS. NEVERTHELESS, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO U.S. INTERESTS THAT THE CORRESPONDENCE BEGIN BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER WHICH WAS RAISED BY PRESIDENT FORD AND CONSTITUTES AN AGENDUM FOR U.S. INITIATIVE.

3. THEREFORE, I WOULD SUGGEST, AS AN ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT, THAT THE FIRST LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD SHOULD FOCUS ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE LESSER DEVELOPED WORLD, SHOULD REFER TO THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN  
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MANILA, AND SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FACT THAT MARCOS

WILL PERSONALLY DELIVER THE "MANILA DECLARATION" TO THE UNCTAD MEETING IN NAIROBI IN MAY. I AM CONVINCED THAT MARCOS IS UNAWARE (AS INDEED IS MOST OF THE WORLD IN VIEW OF OUR ANEMIC PUBLIC RELATIONS PROGRAM ON THIS SUBJECT) OF THE RATHER SIGNIFICANT STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE SEPTEMBER 1975 SPEECH ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. I AM ALSO CONVINCED THAT MARCOS, IF HE GETS HIS RHETORIC UNDER CONTROL, CAN BE USEFUL FORCE FOR MODERATION, FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION, AND FOR CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVES AT NAIROBI.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD CONSIST OF A RATHER BRIEF NOTE FORWARDING THE TEXT OF A "REPORT" ON THE ACTION THE U.S. HAS TAKEN TO MEET THE NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. THE "REPORT" SHOULD BE A SHORT, FOUR OR FIVE PAGE DOCUMENT, PREFERABLY IN OUTLINE FORM, KEYED TO THE VARIOUS HEADINGS OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA LAST FALL. IT SHOULD STRESS ACTIONS ONLY AND AVOID ARGUMENTS, ARTIONALE, OR POLEMICS. ITS PURPOSE WOULD BE TO GIVE MARCOS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THE "GOOD NEWS" TO NAIROBI THAT THE COOPERATIVE APPROACH IS PAYING OFF. SINCE I ASSUME NO SUCH DOCUMENT EXISTS, SOME KNOWLEDGEABLE SOUL, SUCH AS JULES KATZ, WILL HAVE TO BE PRESSED INTO SERVICE TO SUPERVISE PREPARATION OF ONE FOR THIS SPECIFIC PURPOSE. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION LATER, BUT ONLY AFTER RPT AFTER MARCOS HAS REPLIED TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

5. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER:

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

" I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH GREAT ATTENTION THE REPORTS ON THE RECENT GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN MANILA AND ON THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND MODERATING ROLE WHICH THE PHILIPPINES, AND YOU PERSONALLY, PLAYED IN ITS DELIBERATIONS. I NOTE WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST THAT YOU HAVE BEEN UNANIMOUSLY DELEGATED BY THOSE PRESENT AT THE MEETING TO CARRY THE "MANILA DECLARATION AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION" TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNCTAD MEETING IN NAIROBI.

"YOU STRESSED, IN YOUR ADDRESSES TO THE MANILA MEETING, THAT MORE CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER IF THERE IS COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE LESSER DEVELOPED WORLD. YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS SET A SOUND EXAMPLE TO DEMONSTRATE THE TRUTH OF THIS PRESCRIPTION, AND, IN

MY JUDGMENT, HAS PROVEN ITS POINT HANDSOMELY. AS YOU KNOW, MY GOVERNMENT HAS BASED ITS APPROACH TO THESE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ON THE SAME PREMISES.

"IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WE HAVE QUIETLY TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS TO FULFILL THE ASPIRATIONS AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY ACCLAIM AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST FALL. WE BELIEVE THESE STEPS GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING THE PROBLEMS OF THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE FURTHER WORK WHICH LIES AHEAD. OUR DELEGATION TO THE UNCTAD MEETING WILL REPORT ON THESE MATTERS IN NAIROBI. HOWEVER, SINCE YOU WILL BE GOING THERE IN A RATHER SPECIAL CAPACITY, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE VALUABLE TO YOU TO HAVE A COPY OF A REPORT WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED ON OUR SEVERAL ACTIONS SMOEWHAT IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

"WHEN I VISITED YOU IN MANILA LAST DECEMBER, I SUGGESTED THAT I WOULD LIKE TO WRITE YOU FROM TIME TO TIME TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST AND TO SEEK YOUR ADVICE AND COUNSEL. IN THIS SPIRIT, I WOULD GREATLY WELCOME ANY THOUGHTS YOU MAY HAVE ON THE MANNER IN WHICH WE CAN BEST PRESENT THE SUM TOTAL OF THE ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN TO ENHANCE THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS CONTINUED COOPERATION AND TO AVOID THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONFRONTATION. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ANY THOUGHTS OR SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE TO ME WILL BE TREATED NOT ONLY WITH GREAT RESPECT BUT ALSO WITH DISCRETION AND CONFIDENTIALITY.

"WITH KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS TO YOU AND MRS. MARCOS, I AM,

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"SINCERELY,

"GERALD R. FORD"

6. IF THIS LETTER IS APPROVED, PLEASE ARRANGE TO HAVE IT CABLED THROUGH THIS EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WHILE GROUP OF 77 MEETING IS STILL FRESH IN PHILIPPINE MINDS. DELIVERY PRIOR TO THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR MARCH 9 IS DESIRABLE.  
SULLIVAN

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